

REMARKS

It is gratefully noted that on page 6, lines 13-15 of the Office Action the Examiner has indicated that "The instant claims would be allowable if antistatic layers were excluded from being present intermediate the transparent polymer sheets and upper protective shield layers." All independent claims have now been so limited and therefore it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed.

Basis for the amendments, regarding the antistatic layer, in claims 22, 40 and 41 may be found at page 6, lines 27-30 and page 13, lines 20-24 where it is indicated that the shield may contain antistatic. Also, the Examiner may refer to the paragraph bridging pages 17, 18 and 19 for a discussion of antistatic properties. The amendment in claim 22 concerning the roughness limitation finds basis in the specification at page 9, line 14.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 22-28, 33-37, 39, and 42-44 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and claim the subject matter of the invention. The Examiner points out the inconsistency in the roughness numbers between claims 22 and the teaching at page 9 of the specification. The claims have now been limited to correspond to the claim 9 roughness limitation's utilizing particles to minimize fingerprints on the article. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that is rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 42-44 stand rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 22 has now been amended to be consistent with claims 42-44 in that the roughness numbers in the specification relating to the use of particles for fingerprint protection are now used in the claim and therefore claims 42-44 comply with 35 USC 112. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

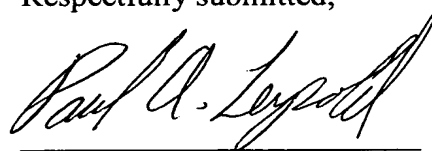
In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 22-28, 33-37, and 39-43 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Aylward et al. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn as the applicant has amended all claims to contain the phrase indicated at page 6, lines 13-15 of the Office Action as rendering the claims allowable. As the Examiner's

suggested language has been inserted in the claims, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, claims 22-28, 33-37, 39, and 42-44 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over combinations of Trautweiler et al., Tingler et al. (014), Tingler et al. (505), and European Patent Publication 1003075. It is respectfully requested that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn as the instant claims have been limited in accordance with the Examiner's statement that "The instant claims would be allowable if antistatic layers were excluded from being present intermediate the transparent polymer sheets and upper protective shield layers." As all independent claims have been so limited, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 USC 112 and 35 USC 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that an early Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Leipold", written over a horizontal line.

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